



National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

**Principal Center for Regulatory Risk Analysis and Communication**

## **REGULATORY ALERT**

### **EPA's Chemical Action Plan for Bisphenol A (BPA)**

This information was prepared by NASA's Principal Center for Regulatory Risk Analysis and Communication (RRAC). An archive of regulatory alerts, summaries, and other information is posted on the RRAC PC website at <http://www.nasa.gov/offices/rrac/home/>. If you have further questions and/or need assistance, please contact Sharon Scroggins/MSFC (256-544-7932, [sharon.scroggins@nasa.gov](mailto:sharon.scroggins@nasa.gov)).

**Date [Citation]:** 29 March 2010 [[Action Plan](#)]

**Regulatory Agency:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Rulemaking Type:** Chemical Action Plan

**Title:** Bisphenol A (BPA) Chemical Action Plan

#### **Summary:**

On 29 March 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) posted a chemical action plan for bisphenol A (BPA). EPA intends to initiate actions addressing BPA in the environment and will continue to work with other government agencies to evaluate human exposure and health consequences.

BPA is a high-production-volume chemical used in manufacturing polycarbonate plastics, epoxy resins, and other products such as flame retardants, polyetherimides and polyarylates, polysulfone resins, and unsaturated polyester resins. BPA-based materials are widely used in the U.S. and are found in products such as food-related packaging, automotive and other transportation equipment, optical media such as DVDs, electrical and electronics equipment, construction, linings inside drinking water pipes, thermal and carbonless paper coatings, foundry castings, and various other products.

The majority of human exposure to BPA is through food packaging, although these products only account for 5 percent of the total BPA used in the U.S. and do not fall within EPA's jurisdiction under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Human exposures from TSCA-covered uses of BPA are minor compared with human exposures from food packaging uses under the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) jurisdiction, and EPA considers that FDA has the lead in making human health judgments regarding BPA. EPA currently does not intend to initiate regulatory action under TSCA on the basis of human health.

On the basis of EPA's screening-level review of BPA hazard and exposure information, including the uncertainties surrounding low-dose studies, EPA intends to:

- Consider initiating rulemaking under TSCA Section 5(b)(4) to add BPA to the Concern List as a substance that may present an unreasonable risk to the environment. EPA intends to publish a proposed rule in the fall of 2010.
- Consider initiating rulemaking under TSCA Section 4(a) to develop data about environmental effects relevant to a further determination that BPA either does or does not present an unreasonable risk of injury to the environment. EPA anticipates publishing an advance notice of proposed rulemaking in late 2010.
- Initiate collaborative alternatives assessment activities under its Design for the Environment program to encourage reductions in BPA manufacturing and use that would result in reductions in environmental releases and subsequent exposures.

#### **Potential Impacts to NASA:**

Some manufacturers and vendors may be preemptively phasing out BPA in certain consumer products and could reformulate epoxy resins, coatings, and other materials due to the possibility of future restrictions on BPA. NASA should be aware that materials used on space vehicles and in other critical applications may be reformulated.

**Additional Information:** <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/existingchemicals/pubs/actionplans/bpa.html>.